

The Mail Ego

By Terrance O'Flaherty

"The face of Judy Carne the Sock-it-to-me girl with the tattooed hips on 'Laugh-In' is very familiar. Has she been seen on television before this?"

Yes, but not quite as much of her. Four years ago she co-starred with Peter Duell in "Love on a Rooftop," a romantic comedy series set in San Francisco. Before that she was the English teenager in a delightful series called "Fair Exchange" about two families — one English, one American — who exchange children for a year. She returns to her native land this week to be married.

"Years ago I became addicted to medical shows when Ben Casey and Dr. Kildare were still practicing. Today there's nothing left but the soap opera 'General Hospital.' Is there any hope of a revival?"

The trouble with that sort of show is that the doctors and nurses were usually sicker than their patients. However, there is a new fall series on ABC titled "Marcus Welby, M.D." which is promising because it brings back Robert Young as a general practitioner. The series will be given a preview as a "World Premiere" movie on NBC March 28.

"What has become of Richard Carlson? We haven't seen him since the television series 'McKenzie's Raiders.'"

You may not have seen him but you certainly have heard him as the off-camera voice on commercials like Bell and Howell, IBM, Kleenex, 3-M, Max Factor and the Bank of America. He says he is enjoying the best possible life — writing for TV and the movies, voicing commercials and playing an occasional guest role like the one on "The FBI" March 30.

"Why do people refer to 'Hollywood' as if it means the whole movie industry? Isn't it now spread throughout the world?"

Yes and many experts believe

it will be spread even farther in the next 20 years if the Hollywood trade unions, craftsmen and performers continue to price themselves right out of business. Yet, even with its international aspects, "Hollywood" is the one word which means "movies."

"The more I see of the reruns of 'Twilight Zone' the more I realize that Rod Serling is one of the most inventive and imaginative men in television. Where is he now that we need him?"

Serling has been active writing feature films like "Planet of the Apes" but he has created a new hour-long series for NBC this fall titled "The New People" (Sundays at 10 p.m.) which sounds like a combination of "Swiss Family Robinson" and "Lord of the Flies" based on the survival of a plane-load of young Americans which has crashed on a Pacific island without a Boy Scout in the bunch.

"Who — or what are the Mexican boys in the Baja Marimba Band and what is their secret?"

They play good, middle-of-the-road music which makes lots of friends and no enemies. They aren't Mexicans — needless to say — although their costume designer must be. Their leader, Jules Wechter admits they're a "visual joke" but it is a joke which grosses over half a million dollars a year from personal appearances alone, not counting their recording sales.

"What was Lana Turner's first film and what is her latest?"

She made her movie debut in a 1937 Warner Brothers film about a Southern lynching titled "They Won't Forget." (She was the murder victim.) She managed to survive a 1966 movie called "Madame X" to become the co-star of a new ABC-TV series this fall titled "The Survivors" which has been written by Harold Robbins, author of "The Carpetbaggers." She co-stars in it with George Hamilton of recent White House fame.



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